

Bateman's Tragedy:
OR, THE
Perjur'd BRIDE Justly Rewarded.
BEING THE
HISTORY
OF
The Unfortunate LOVE
OF
German's Wife and young Bateman.



L O N D O N:

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Darius's Story
 OR THE
 History of the
 Unfortunate Love
 OF
 Darius's Wife and Young Babylonian



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Bateman's Tragedy:

O R, T H E Perjur'd Bride justly Rewarded

CHAP. I.

How young Bateman, riding thro' Clifton-Town accidentally espied fair Isabella, a rich Farmer's Daughter, standing at her Father's Door, and fell in Love with her, enquiring who she was, and his Resolves to let her know his Passion.

WE find that solemn Vows and Promises are of great Weight and strictly binding, by the severe notice God has taken of those that have violated them, in punishing the Dishonour done to his Name, by various and fearful judgments; and that People may be more careful for the future, not to make any Vows or solemn Promises they are prone to break, or intend not to keep, I shall instance one dismal Example of God's Anger in this kind so dreadful a Manner, that all England has not only heard it with Admiration, but stood astonished at it.

Young Bateman, Son to a Gentleman of Nottinghamshire, a Person well educated, but (by his Father's too much Liberality) of no great Fortune, riding one Day through Clifton-Town, a few Miles from Nottingham, happened to cast his Eyes on a very comely Maid, who was standing at the Door of a seemly House, with whose innocent Looks and pretty Features, he was, all on a sudden, so taken, that

he could not but make a full Stop to gaze at her. The Maiden no sooner perceived his Eyes were earnestly fixed on her, but colouring her Face with a rosie Blush, she modestly retires, no less surprized with his comely Personage, than he was with her charming Beauty; however, this being the first time they had seen each other, neither had he Courage to make any Advances, but he passed on about his Affairs to a Town fifteen Miles beyond that, but in a manner without a Heart, for he had left that (as Lovers term it) with his fair Mistress.



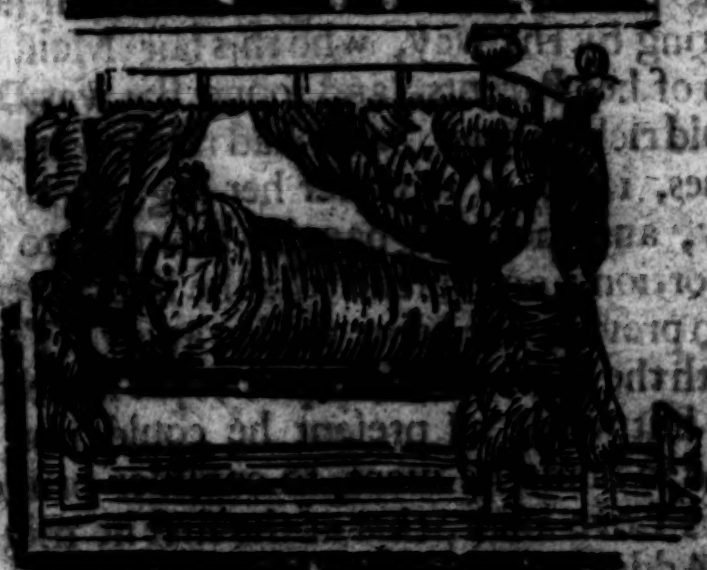
All the Way he rode his thoughts, were strangely confounded, so that he laboured to compose them, but in vain; he found, now though he had formerly made a Jest of Love, and laughed at his Companions for declaring their passions, that he was taken in that Net he had persuaded others so often to break, and that the more he struggled, the faster he found himself entangled, the Business he went about was minded but little, and his sighs and restlessness made his friends conclude him in much disorder; yet he cunningly

concealed the cause from them, who little suspected it, considering his former freeness of Temper, and airy course of living, that Love could be any Ingredient in this sudden alteration; so that finding however, the Contagion had seized the Mind more than the Body, they concluded it might proceed from the Decay of his fortune; whereupon, that he might not be dejected, they proffered him their assistance and service in any thing he would command them. Whilst these things passed, he was urgent to return home, and did so, enquiring by the way, who this fair Maid was, and the Condition of her Parents, and found she was Daughter to a covetous old rich Farmer, who had refused many considerable Matches, in hopes to prefer her higher, by the means of her beauty, and the many bags he intended to bestow upon her as a Portion; and further, that he kept a very strict hand over her to prevent her being stolen away. This struck him almost with the Horrors of Despair; yet something he resolved to do, but what at present he could not frame in his Mind; and so home he went, to consider prudently how to manage his Love-affair, that at the first he might not by an over-rash Address, dash all his future hopes of happiness: In contriving which, we will leave him a while, to consider the Condition wherein he left the fair *Isabella*, the Farmer's Daughter.

CHAP.

C H A P. II.

How the fair Isabella fell sick of Love for Bateman, though a Stranger, and his abode unknown to her; and how, when she was given over, he came in the Habie of a Physician, discovered himself to her, and she recovered by that means her Health, to the unspeakable Joy of her Parents.



THis beauteous Maid, who, though often courted, had stood Proof against the Sighs, Tears and Intreaties of many handfom young Batchelors, found now she stood in need of Pity herself, Bateman's Idea was so fixed in her Mind, that sleeping or waking, she fancied him always in her sight; she made private enquiries, by the Description she gave of him, but not any she conversed with could satisfie her in that particular, some guessing at one, and some at another, as their Fancies led them; so that Love still blowing the hidden Fire, she first grew regardless of the Domestick Affairs, of which her Father and Mother had made her Overseer; then her Appetite failed, and, after that, she fell into a languishing Disease, which caused great Heaviness in the Family:

Phy.

Physicians were sent for to advise withal, but all their Skill proved ineffectual; for, according to the old Proverb,

*Where Love's in the Case,
The Doctor's an Ass.*

So that the Father and Mother fearing to lose their only Daughter, whom they doted on, and prized above all the valuable things in the World, were in a manner at their Wits-end, wringing their Hands and shedding many woful Tears.

Whilst they were in this piteous plight, and the sighing Maiden concealed the inward Flame, that consumed her Health, had wasted her Spirits, one, in the Habit of a Physician, mounted on a stately Steed, came riding to the Gate, and desired to speak with Mr. Gifford, for that was the Father's Name. The old Man came quickly to him, with a heavy Countenance, and the marks of Tears on his aged Cheeks, demanding, what brought him to so sorrowful a place, and what he required? Truly, Sir, says he, *I came out of Compassion to the Affliction of your Family, for being at an Inn in the Town, and hearing your Daughter was sick, who is your only Delight and Darling, and whose Death might bring you untimely to your Grave, divers Physicians having used their Skill in vain; if you will accept of my Advice, and she be willing to take what I shall direct, I doubt not, but by the Blessing of God, upon my many Tears Study in Physick, and Travels in divers Countries, so to order things that her Health will be restored in, a few Days.*

The Father, upon this unexpected Visit of a Stranger concluded it was some good Angel directed to him by a wonderful Providence, scarcely restraining from falling on his Knees, or able to speak for Joy; but after a little Recovery from this kind of Transport, he invited him in, in a loving manner; and, as this new Doctor had desired, order-

and all others out of the Chamber: The Love-sick Maid no sooner fixed her Eyes on him, but she knew him, and fetching a deep sigh, fainted away; but he revived her with some Cordials he had brought; so that recovering her Senses, her Blushes overcame her Paleness, and made a very strange Alteration in her Countenance.

To be brief, he having before guessed at, and being now fully assured of the Cause of her Distemper, told her the End of his coming in that Disguise, intreating her to cheer up, and pouring out his passionate Love-expressions, mingled with Tears, to see her in such a low condition, they at last so well understood one another's Mind, that having made a few Visits to her for four or five Days, and ordered her such things as are proper to restore decayed Nature, her Health returned, and the Roses flourished again in her Cheeks, to Wonder and Admiration; at which, the Father overjoyed, embraced this seeming Physician, and offered him a handful of Gold; but he refused, only desiring leave to visit him, as he happened to pass by his House on Occasions: And so at this time they parted, with high Satisfaction on all hands, especially of the young Couple.

C H A P. III.

*How being invited to her Father's House, he walked abroad with-
and discovered his Passion to her at large; of the Encour-
agement he found to proceed in his Suit, and the Prospect
there was of a happy Marriage between them.*

YOUNG Bateman, having thus, as he thought, made a thorough Step to his future Happiness, went home filled with Joy, but delayed not long to re-visit his lovely Patient in the same Habit, taking an Opportunity after Dinner, to walk with her in the Garden; where, after a Turn or two, sitting down in a pleasant shady Bower, they began to talk of Love, and of the last Adventure, devouring each other

other in a manner with their eager Looks, kissing and using
a'l the modest Freedom that Lovers, whose Hearts were so
united and enflamed, could wish or desire; and after some
interrupting Sighs had passed, clasping his Arms about her
snowy Neck: *Ab! lovely Isabella, crys he, how blessed am I
to have this Opportunity to tell you how much and how dearty I
love you; you are the only Jewel in Nature, that I prize; and
could I but be possessed of your lovely self, I should think myself
the happiest of all Mankind.*

At this, turning her Eyes with Loveliness on him, and
blushing with a Virgin-grace, she, she told him, *That since
he had been so kind to come timely and save her life, she thought
she could do no less than recompence him any lawful and reason-
able way he could desire; for though many courted her, she was
engaged to none.*

Upon this Encouragement, he pressing her further, and
vowing eternal Love and Constancy, she not only seemed
by her kind Glances, and suffer him with Willingness to
lay his Head in her Bosom, to give her Consent to a speedy
Marriage, but likewise told him, *That this being the first
time he asked her to render herself up to him, it was but
all the Reason in the World for Virgin modesty, and a Com-
pliance with Custom, that he should give her some time to
consider of so weighty a Matter, which should, as she assu-
red him, turn no ways to his Prejudice; For, continued she
my Obedience to my Parents, that yet I never disobeyed,
must be continued, they must know of your Pretensions;
several very rich and likely Men court me at present, yet
fear not my Good-liking.*

This so overjoyed young Bateman, that he would immedi-
ately have gone to her Parents and asked that Jewel of them
whose precious Life they could not but conclude, he, next to
Heaven had saved and continued to them; but she opposed
it, saying, *She would prepare the way her self; and there*

fore the next Visit he payed, it would prove new to them, and consequently more welcome. So, rising from their Seats, they went into the House, where a splendid Treat was provided, and they sat over-against each other at the Table, feeding on Love with their Eyes with greater Contentment than on the Dainties; but Supper ended, and Night coming on, *Bateman* took his Leave; when at parting the old Farmer invited him to a publick Entertainment, that was to be at his House the third Day following; which he accepted of, and so for that time they parted.

C H A P. IV.

How he came in his proper Garb, and with her asked her Father's Consent; but for want of an estate, was refused: how one German, who was his Rival, attempting to kill him, was wounded by him, and how he made his escape, &c.



I Shall not trouble you with the Thoughts and Impatiency of the young Lovers, during the Intervene, but tell you this Feast was made principally to entertain a Gentleman, whose

whose Grand father, a little before dying, had left him a great Estate, and whose Affections were strongly placed on the fair Virgin, so that he had courted her long; but she seem'd little to regard his Addresses: However, the Father and Mother, charmed with the Desire of a rich Match for their Daughter, listened to it; and had often by Persuasions, and sometimes by Threatnings, desired and commanded her Compliance; but she with as much Tenderness, and beseeching as often excus'd it, protesting her liking to a single Life, and entreating them they would not compel her to any thing against her Inclination.

The Day being come, the Guest met, and young *Bateman* resolving now to push on his Suit, in his own proper Garb, came very bravely attired in the Habit of a Gentleman. The Entertainment was very splendid, Sea, Earth, and Air, contributed their Stores to furnish out the Table with all manner of Dainties, as; Fish, Flesh, Powl, Fruits, &c. nor was Musick, or any thing requisite wanting: But that which dash'd part of the Merriment, was, that fair *Isabella*, placing herself overagainst *Bateman*, the other Lover, whose Name was *German*, and, by his Years and Observations in Love-intreagues, understanding the Language of their Eyes, in their often Gazings, the Blushes coming and going in his Mistress Face, and many other Signs that *Cupid* has lively painted perspicuous to Lovers; his Fancy hit upon the Truth, viz. That they were deeply in Love with each other; whereupon his Countenance changed to a sullen and melancholly, and, throwing by what was before him, he abruptly retired from the Table, ordering his Servant to make ready his Horse in order to be gone.

The Father and Mother were startled at this, and knew not what should be the Occasion of so sudden an Alteration, in a Person who had professed so much Love to their Daughter, and on whom he resolv'd to bestow her, and thereupon followed him into a private Room, to be better satisfied in

the Cause of his Dislike, or Discontent, and was soon satisfied in it; whereupon, taking his Daughter aside, he told her what had been suggested by German. To which she modestly replied, *Seeing the Gentleman had saved her Life, when others had failed, she thought in Conscience she could do no less than to give him her love in Requital, and was resolved, if ever she married, to be his Wife.* This startled the old Man more and more, and Bateman mistrusting what had happened, coming in the interim and being demanded by the father, if he made Love to his Daughter, boldly owning it, and desired his Consent to have her in Marriage.

How! says the old Man, *You that are a Stranger make love to my Daughter, and without my Knowledge? You may, for all your fine Gazaws, be a Beggar for ought I know: I intend to give her a great Fortune, and therefore resolve to have her married to one that can settle a good Joynture on her: Pray what Estate have you?*

Truly, replied Bateman, *I am rich in love towards her, but for Estate, I cannot boast of much; I was born a Gentleman, but without the Fortune to maintain it; my Parents were unfortunate and left me but little, yet I hope that little, with your Blessing and our love, will woe Providence to be so kind, that our Endeavours may not fail to make us Happy, and you not repine, to give me this fair Creature to be my Wife.*

Upon this, he was going to take her by the Hand, and seal his Love with a Kiss; but the old Dad stepped between them, in an angry manner, crying, *Poh, poh; stand off, Sir; a Gentleman without an Estate, is like a Pudding without Fat; you have indeed done my Daughter a Kindness in recovering her Health, but for having her to your Wife, I must beg your Pardon, she is Meat for your Betters.*

Upon this, Bateman's Anger began to arise into some little Reproaches, but whilst he was upbraiding his expected Father with Ingratitude, in rushes German, who had heard in the next Room what had passed, with his drawn Sword, and

and made a full Pass at him ; but he nimbly put it aside, and drawing, wounded him in the Breast, whereupon he fell dead to the Ground ; and thereupon *Bateman* was forced to make his Escape, to gain time for further Consideration of what was to be done.

CHAP. V.

How, being banished her Father's house, his love Mistress, upon sending a Letter, came to him in Disguise, in a Neighbouring Wood, and there they sealed their Love, by solemn Vows, and breaking a piece of Gold betwixt them.



Fair *Isabella* upon this unexpected Accident, being left all in Tears as well as the rest of the Family in Fear & Confusion, Surgeons were sent for, who, upon searching the Wound, gave Hopes of their Patient's Recovery ; yet *Bateman*, fearing the worst absented himself from his Dwelling, and got, one Evening, a travelling Pedler, for a good Re-

Reward, to deliver a Letter, to his Mistress, which he did, under the Colour of coming to her Father's House, to proffer his Wares, which was to intreat her, if she had any Pity on the Sufferings of an unfortunate Man, not only to forgive what he did in Defence of his own Life, but to meet in a Neighbouring Wood at such an Hour.

She had no sooner read it, but, resolving to answer his Desire she escaped in the Disguise of a Milk-maid, dressing herself with the Maid's Apparel; when they met (it's in vain for us to go about to describe the Raptures of Joy that was between them) she gave him an Account of all that had happened, and how *German* was likely to recover: But long they dwelt not on this Theme, before they fell to that of Love renewing their Vows of eternal Love and Constancy, that nothing but Death should be able to separate them; and, to bind it, he broke a piece of Gold, giving her the one half, and keeping the other himself; and then with Tears and tender Kisses they parted; she at the Farewel, which proved a sad one, intreated him to travel a few Weeks, and give her Notice where he was secretly, and she would send him word, as to the Recovery, or Danger of his Rival; to which he consented with much Alacrity.

C H A P. VI.

How, upon her coming back, her going was discovered, and she confined to her Chamber, which German courting her with Tears, Presents, and the Proffer of a good Estate; she, at the Instance of her Parents, renounced her Vows, sent back the broken Go'd, and married German, whereupon Bateman hanged himself.

THe beauteous Virgin, during her Absence, having been missed at home, and much enquired after, at her return, by reason of the unseasonableness of the time, was suspected of what had happen'd; and altho' she modestly denied it, she

she was confined to her Chamber, and an old Nurse set upon her as a Guard: so that *Bateman's* Letters were intercepted, and she lost the opportunity of writing to him. In the meanwhile *German* was recovered, and admired to court her, whose addresses for a long time she resisted; but at last, O the Inconstancy of Women! notwithstanding her Vows to be *Bateman, Alive or Dead*, and many other Protestations, the Glittering of the Miser's Gold, the Perswasions and Threats of her Father, and her Mother's Tears, with fine treats and rich Presentations, prevailed with her to alter her Mind; and by Instigation of these three to write to *Bateman* a Letter, wherein she detested his Love; which, however, she could not do, without blotting the Paper with tears, and great Reluctancy of Mind. This Letter found him many Miles off a hunting; but upon the reading it, his Spirits were dashed, and a chill struck to his Heart; However, though he knew her Hand, he flattered himself in believing it was to punish him for his so long absence, or that she was compelled to do it; however, fearing the worst, he hastened the next Morning to *Clifton*, and hearing the Bells ringing merrily, his heart misgave him; however, he had the Courage to enquire the Cause, which proved a fatal One.

That Morning he was informed she was married to his Rival; then in a rage he began to curse his Stars, and all Woman-kind; oft he thought to fall on his Sword; but then desire of Revenge interposed, not to fall alone, but to Sacrifice the Bridegroom, and then himself: after some what milder Resolutions came into his Mind, that he in this should give cause of Grief to his Mistress; yet, to let know his Repentments, he sent her a Letter with the half piece of Gold in it which found her Dinner, and made her be taken away sick from the Table; however, she was comforted with Cordials. Joy of a Bridal-night, riding in a Coach, and great Estate, passed it over, and to Bed they went when Night came.

Bateman

Bateman, receiving no answer, took it as a farther Slight, and so entering on a desperate Resolve, he sto e into the house privately, as knowing the way, and hiding himself in a Closet by the Bridal Chamber door, hanged himself before the Door, where he was found, to their great Horror and Amazement, upon opening the Door the next Morning, with this Distich on his Breast:

*False Woman, of thy Vows and Oaths have dread,
For thou art mine by them, alive or dead.*

C H A P. VII.

How, upon Bateman's hanging himself before her Chamber-door, she grew melancholy, always fancying she see him with a ghastly face, putting her in mind of her broken Vows; and how, after being delivered of a Child, a Spirit carried her away.



THIS not only discomposed the Mirth of the Wedding, and made the Bride exceeding melancholy, but the

ensuing Night dreadful Cries and Screeks were heard, as if Hell had been broke loose, blazing Lights oft flashed in the Eyes of the new-married Pair, as they lay entwined in each others Arms followed with a dreadful Cry, *Thou art mine dead or alive.* This madethem hastily remove to the Husband's House some miles distant; but the same hunting pursued them, and where-ever she went, she thought the Spirit of Bateman appeared to her, holding the broken Gold in a String, and upbraiding her with her Breach of Faith: The Curtains were often drawn violently when they were in Bed, and the former Cry continued, till at last, she proving with Child, the Spirit came in a more furious manner, to bid her prepare to go with him, as soon as she was delivered; at which, weary of her Life, stretching out her arms she cried, *I am thine for ever, and am ready to go along with thee.*

No, replied he, *the Angel who made in thy Womb protects thee, that I cannot have thee till thou art delivered.*

Thus she continued in labour and pain, having many Divines to pray for her, but it availed not; for the time of her delivery being come, which she desired might be prolonged, the Priests, her Mother and divers other Women watched with her, who all earnestly begged of to pray, and not by any means to call off; however, a sudden drowsiness about Midnight in spite of all they could do, overcame them, till when a dreadful cry, they found the Candles out, and when they sought for the Child-bed woman, she was missing; the Calament being burst in pieces, and a strong smell of Sulphur left in the Room: the town's People affirmed, they heard great Cries and Screeks in the Air, accompanied with a Clap of Thunder and a Clap of Lighting about that time; however, she was never after heard on, though much sought for.

And bear a faithful mind
For such as will prove true in love
And bear a faithful mind

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No, replied he, *the Angels shall be in thy Womb protect thee, that I cannot hurt thy Child when it is delivered.*

Thus she continued in Torment and Pain, having many Divines to pray for her, but it availed not; for the time of her delivery being so long, which she desired might be prolonged, that her Mother and divers other Women watched with her, who earnestly begged of to pray, and not by any means to fall asleep; however, a sudden drowsiness about Midnight in spite of all they could do, overcame them, till when a dreadful cry, they found the Candle out, and when they searched for the Child-bed woman, she was missing; the Caliment being burst in pieces, and a strong smell of Sulphur left in the Room: the town's People affirmed, they heard great Cries and Screeks in the Air, accompanied with a Clap of Thunder, and a Clap of Lighting about that time; however, she was never after heard on, though much sought for.

For such a will prove fall in love
and bear a false mind

*A Godly Warning to all Maidens by the Example
 God's Judgment shewed on German's Wife of
 ton, in the County of Nottingham, who lying in
 Child-bed, was borne away, and never heard of
 after.*

To the Tune of, The Lady's Fall, &c.



You dainty dames so finely fram'd
 of beauty's chiefest mould,
 And you that win it up and down,
 like lambs in Cupid's fold,
 Here is a lesson to be learn'd,
 a lesson in my mind,
 For such as will prove false in love,
 and bear a faithless mind :

Not

Not far from Nottingham of late,
 in Clifton, as I hear,
 There dwelt a fair and comely dame,
 for beauty without Peer;
 Her cheeks were like the crimson rose,
 yet as you may perceive,
 The fairest face, the falsest Heart,
 and soonest will deceive:
 This gallant dame she was belov'd
 of many in that place,
 And many sought in marriage-bed
 her body to embrace:
 At last a proper handsome youth,
 young *Bateson* call'd by name
 In hopes to make a married Wife,
 unto this maiden came.
 Such love and liking here was found,
 that he from all the rest,
 Had stol'n away the Maiden's heart,
 and she did love him best;
 Then plighted promise secretly
 did pass between them two,
 That nothing could but death itself,
 this is true love's knot undo,
 He brake a piece of Gold in twain,
 one half to her he gave,
 The other as a pledge, quoth he,
 dear heart my self will have.
 If I do break my vow, quoth she,
 while I remain alive,
 May never thing I take in hand
 be seen at all to thrive.

This passed on for two month's space,
and then this Maid began
To settle love and liking too
upon another Man :
One German, who a Widower was,
her husband needs must be,
Because he was of greater wealth,
and better in degree.
Her vows and promise lately made
to Bateman, she deny'd ;
And in despite of him and his,
she utterly deny'd ;
Well then, quoth he, if it be so,
that you will me forsake,
And like a false and forsworn wretch
another Husband take,
Thou shalt not live one quiet hour,
for, surely, I will have
Thee either now alive, or dead,
when I am laid in grave ;
Thy faithless mind thou shalt repent,
therefore be well assur'd,
When for thy sake thou hear'st report,
what torments I endure'd.
But mark how Bateman dy'd for love,
and finish'd up his life,
That very day he marry'd was,
and made old German's Wife ;
For with a strangling cord, God-wot,
great moan was made therefore,
He hang'd himself in desperate sort,
before the Bride's own door,

Where

Whereat such sorrow pierc'd her heart,
 and troubled sore her mind,
 That she could never after that
 one day of comfort find:
 And wheresoever she did go,
 her fancy did furnish
 Young *Batemans* pale and ghastly ghost
 appear'd before her eyes.



When she in bed at night did lye
 betwixt her husband's arms,
 In hope thereby to sleep and rest,
 in safety without harms:
 Great cries & grievous groans she heard,
 a voice that sometimes said,
 O thou art she that I must have,
 and will not be deny'd.

But she being big with child,
 was for the infant's sake,
 Preserved from the Spirit's power,
 no vengeance could it take:
 The babe unborn did safely keep
 as God appointed so,
 His Mother's body from the fiend,
 that sought her overthrow.
 But being of her burden eay'd,
 and safely brought to bed,
 Her care was now to know,
 and what she should do,
 And of her friends she did receive,
 desiring them to stay,
 Out of the bed, watch her this night,
 I shall be gone away.
 Here comes the spirit of my love,
 with words and looks full of love,
 Who, till he bear me hence away,
 will not depart this place;
 Alive or dead I am on my right,
 and he will surely bide,
 In spite of us and all the world,
 what I by promise gave.
 O watch with me this night, I pray,
 and see you do not slay.
 No longer than you be awake,
 my body can you keep.
 All promised to do their best,
 yet nothing could suffice,
 In middle of the night to keep
 sad slumber from their eyes.

So being all full fast asleep,
 to them unknown which way,
 The Child bed woman that woful night
 from thence was born away,
 And to what place no creature knew,
 nor to this day can tell,
 As strange a thing as ever yet
 in any age befel,
 You Maidens that desire to love,
 and would good Husbands chuse,
 To him that you do vow to love,
 by no means do refuse,
 For God that hears all secret oaths,
 will dreadful vengeance take,
 On such that of a wilful vow
 do slender reckoning make.

F I N I S.



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